

# CLEARWATER BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD

including Sand Key and Island Estates

Newsletter 20-25



Steve & Lisa  
Chandler in  
The Beach Diner

## THE BEACH DINER

While it may not have been the oldest restaurant on the beach, The Beach Diner certainly figures prominently in Clearwater Beach's history. Many locals ate there regularly, and they remember many good times.

The Beach Diner, opened in the 1990s as a retro, old style diner like the ones that were so popular in the 1950s. It was located at the main intersection leading to Clearwater Beach, where the Roundabout is today.

Before it was the Beach Diner, the building was a Howard Johnson restaurant. In the late 1950s, the City negotiated a contract to allow a Howard Johnson restaurant be built at that location, on City leased land. For 30 years, the restaurant, with its classic orange-tiled roof, was the first thing people saw when they drove over the Memorial Causeway approaching Clearwater Beach.

After three decades of operation the lease expired and Nick Christou purchased the building. It took some creative remodeling to remove the classic HoJo look. It opened as the Beach Diner on July 9th, 1990.

Steve Chandler was the general manager, but he already had hopes of owning it one day. "The first day was supposed to be a quiet opening with no advertising, so the staff and I could get settled in," remembers Steve. "We opened at 6am and within an hour, every booth was full. It was anything but a quiet opening."

The Beach Diner was a 24 hour, 7 days a week, hot spot. They served breakfast, lunch and dinner. It was a shiny, 1950s era building with that classic, stainless steel look. It was a replica of an old style diners with a jukebox and '50s themed murals on the walls featuring Elvis, Lucille Ball, Jimmy Dean and others. The stools at the counter swiveled and lots of vinyl covered the booths.

After the Diner's first year, Christou was ready to move on to other business ventures. But, Steve felt his work there had just begun and purchased The Beach Diner, becoming the sole owner & operator.

Steve was introduced to Lisa Romine in 1992 when she and her mother, Rosemarie, were dining at The Diner. The Lisa and Steve began dating and Lisa began working at The Diner. After they were married in 1994, Lisa continued to wait on tables, and helped manage the office and kept the books.

Every Friday night there were car shows. Some weeks had themes, such as only corvettes or classic cars. Of course the car owners, families and the curious were there, too.

Saturdays were "Dime Day"; customers lined up to take advantage of 10¢ wings, beer, seafood chowder and oysters from noon to 3pm.

"We were one of the first restaurants on the beach to offer *You Catch It, We'll Cook It* for the fishing tourists," says owner Lisa Chandler. "We were right next to the marina and tourists got a big kick out of eating the fish they caught."

The Beach Diner was a place where families were encouraged to bring their kids. "We had a designated kid's corner with a Lego table and we served a Gummy Bear pizza - a real favorite on the kids menu," Lisa says. "Some nights we hired a balloon artist or clown so families would bring their children. The jukebox was free. We still have that old jukebox in our garage at home," Lisa continued.

They shared the intersection with other buildings. The Memorial Civic Center was home to the Beach Library, a Welcome Center and a Clearwater Regional Chamber of Commerce office. It was also the venue for various events, such as the local children's Cotillion.

In 1996, when a group of Clearwater Beach businesses decided to break off from the Regional Chamber and start their own Beaches Chamber of Commerce, they held their first meeting at The Diner. "I remember that night," says Lisa. "I was working and served most of those attending."

Everyone ate at the diner. It was the stomping grounds for the city's movers and shakers and celebrities. It was THE place for lunch. "I remember Hulk Hogan came in to celebrate his 40th birthday," says Lisa.

"There is nothing on the beach today that compares to the ambiance and nostalgic theme of The Beach Diner during the 1990s," Steve says. "Some of my fondest memories are producing the local car shows. It was thrilling for us to see the number of people who came to see the cars and then would eat at our place."

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Story and photo by Bob Griffin, Publisher **continued inside**

**CREDITS**



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BeachNewsletters.com

We'd like to hear from you. Is there something you would like to see included in this newsletter? Tell us what you think at

[bob@griffindirectories.com](mailto:bob@griffindirectories.com)

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**CLEARWATER BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER**

This is our 22nd Clearwater Beach Neighborhood Newsletter. We started this publication in December of 2009.

You will find articles and local information about the Beach area inside. We call it a Neighborhood Newsletter because it is primarily about your neighborhood, Clearwater Beach. It is mailed to the entire zip code of 33767 including Island Estates and Sand Key.

We want your input. How did you like this issue? What suggestions do you have for future issues and articles? We hope you enjoy this newsletter. We call it a "Neighborhood Newsletter" because it is about Clearwater Beach, your neighborhood. It is mailed to about 5,000 households and includes Island Estates and Sand Key. We publish this edition six times a year.



Call or email us, Bob & Becky Griffin, 727-517-1997 [bob@griffindirectories.com](mailto:bob@griffindirectories.com)

**SEE YOU AGAIN IN OCTOBER!**

**CITY NUMBERS**

**CITY HALL 562-4250**  
112 S. Osceola Avenue  
[www.clearwater-fl.com](http://www.clearwater-fl.com)

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**MAYOR** - George N. Cretekos - Seat 1

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Jay Polglaze - Seat 3 Bill Jonson - Seat 4

Paul F. Gibson (Vice-Mayor) - Seat 5

**CITY MANAGER** ..... 562-4040

William Horne

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER** . . . 562-4040

**BUILDING PERMITS** ..... 562-4558

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**ROTARY**, Clearwater Beach meets every

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Nick Ekonomides, President 447-1075

**CLEARWATER BEACH ASSOCIATION**

Wendy Hutkin, President . . . . . 216-3274

**CLEARWATER GARDEN CLUB**

Cathy Foley . . . . . 443-7032

**SAND KEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION**

Meets first Wednesdays each month at the

Clearwater Community Sailing Center

Arlene Musselwhite, President 644-7524

**ISLAND ESTATES CIVIC ASSOCIATION**

Mary Lau, President . . . 813-335-6770

[www.MylslandEstates.org](http://www.MylslandEstates.org)

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**COMMISSION OFFICES** . . . . . 464-3000

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Karen Seel, Sand Key . . . . . 464-3278

**STATE:**

Senator Jack Latvala . . . . . 727-793-2797

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Governor Rick Scott

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**FLORIDA UNITED STATES SENATORS:**

Marco Rubio . . . . . 202-224-3041

[www.Rubio.Senate.gov](http://www.Rubio.Senate.gov)

Bill Nelson . . . . . 202-224-5274

[www.BillNelson.Senate.gov](http://www.BillNelson.Senate.gov)

**AREA UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE:**

Rep Bill Young . . . . . 727-394-6950

9210 113th St, Seminole, FL 33772

[www.house.gov/young](http://www.house.gov/young)

**CALENDAR OF LOCAL EVENTS**

**AUGUST:**

- Little League (Register for Fall Ball)
- Sunset Run at Pier 60 #4 2
- Public School Begins 19

**SEPTEMBER:**

- Labor Day 2
- Friday Night Swim Aquatic Center 2
- Morton Plant Prostate Awareness 5K 7
- Buc's First Game 8
- Grandparents Day 8
- Patriots Day 11
- Schools Closed 13
- El Grito Mexican Festival 14
- Friday Night Swim Aquatic Center 16
- Columbia Restaurant Anniversary 22
- Autumn Begins 22
- Taste of Clearwater 24
- Blast Friday Coachman Park 27
- Off Shore Power Boat Races 27-29

**OCTOBER:**

- Night Out Against Crime 1
- Fire Prevention Week 9-15
- Hispanic Heritage Concert 13
- Columbus Day 14
- Stone Crab Season Begins 15
- National Boss's Day 16
- CMA to Close 17
- Clearwater Jazz 17-20
- Coastal Clean Up 19
- Clearwater Jazz Art N Walk 19-20
- Beach Chamber Golf Tournament 21
- Stone Crab Festivals 24-27
- Schools Closed 25
- Komen 3 Day Walk 25-27
- Blast Friday Downtown 25
- Chalk Walk BeachWalk 25-27
- Johns Pass Seafood Fest 26-27
- Country Jubilee Heritage Village 26
- Halloween Carnival, Rec Center 26
- Boo Bash Brighthouse Field 31
- Sea Turtle Nesting Season Ends 31



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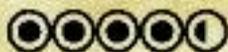
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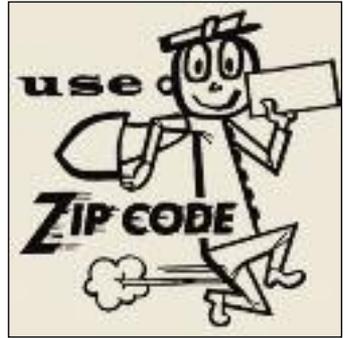
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## Did You Know...

### DO YOU LIVE IN 33767?

You would not even know what that means, if it was not for the US Postal Service inventing the five digit Zip Code, fifty years ago this year. Before July 1963, mail was mainly sorted by address. All they needed was your city and state. The volume of mail exploded after World War II. Hand sorting became impossible, so they created a system of small geographical areas and laid it over a map of the United States. Each box was given a code and the zip code was born. To help promote the change, the Postal Service introduced the cartoon character "Mr. Zip". By 1969, 83% of mail included zip codes. Today, if you do not include a zip code, your mail will be returned to you. Besides mail, businesses and agencies now sort their data based on zip codes. Banks and insurance companies use zip codes to analyze mortgage risk and set premiums. Real Estate firms use them to organize their listings. We even use them to decide who gets this newsletter.



**TASTE OF CLEARWATER** The annual Taste Of Clearwater, sponsored by the Regional Clearwater Chamber of Commerce and is being held at Westfield Countryside Mall, on Tuesday, September 24th. The event runs from 5:30pm to 8:30pm. There is a fee.

**NEED ANOTHER COPY?** Pick up another copy of this newsletter at the Beach Chamber Office, The Beach Rec Center, Island Estates Print Shack, Shorty's Gourmet Deli or the Island Estates UPS store.

**PROSTATE RUN HAS NAME CHANGE** Morton Plant Hospital has changed the name of the 5K and 10K Prostate Run to Miles For Men. The race, held September 7th, begins on the Morton Plant Campus and runs across the Memorial Causeway to Clearwater Beach, before returning to Morton Plant. If you use the Memorial Causeway that morning, expect delays. This is a fundraiser for their Foundation. Register at Miles4Men.com or call 462-7036

**FIRE EXPO** Clearwater Fire & Rescue is having an Expo at Westfield Countryside Mall on Oct. 12 from 10 am until 2 pm as part of Fire Prevention Week. The weeklong event is dedicated to fire safety, awareness and prevention efforts. This year's theme is "Prevent Kitchen Fires."

**SPCA DOG WALK** The 23rd Annual 3K Pet Walk is scheduled for October 12 in downtown St. Petersburg's Vinoy Park. For information, call 499-0364 or visit [www.SPCATampaBay.org](http://www.SPCATampaBay.org).



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**TEAM TRAVELS TO SCOTLAND** The Celtic FC Florida's U14 Competitive Girls Soccer Team, ranked 15 in the State for their age group, traveled to Scotland for a full week of training with the Celtic FC Youth Academy. As part of the visit, they also had three games against Scottish youth academy opposition. To complete the soccer experience, they were guests of Celtic for the opening game of the 2013/14 Scottish Premiership season. Off the field site seeing and Scottish heritage excursions were also planned.

**CLEARWATER MARINA FULLY OCCUPIED** 90% of the 126 slips (114 in total) in the Clearwater Harborside Marina are available monthly and they have all been rented. The other 10% are reserved for transient boaters (day to day). That means only 12 slips are available on any given day for travelers. The marina was built with the help of a \$1.2 million grant and part of the grant's requirement was the transient slips.

**100,000 PEOPLE** Lt Dalton and his Police Department have been counting cars, and they estimate that 25,000 cars came to Clearwater Beach on July 4th alone. A typical weekend in July and August may have had 100,000 people visiting our beach. Thus, the backups on the Memorial Causeway. But, aren't we glad they are spending their time and money here and not some where else.

**CLEARWATER BEACH FAMILY AQUATIC CENTER FALL HOURS** From August 19 - September 29 Clearwater Beach's Aquatic Center will be open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday through Sunday from noon - 5pm. The extended pool hours are made possible with assistance from the Friends of the Clearwater Beach Library and Recreation Complex.

**CHALK WALK** One of the Clearwater Beach Chamber newest events is their Chalk Walk. It was so fun and successful, they are doing it again October 25, 26 and 27th along Beach Walk from the Hyatt Regency to the south end of Beach Walk. The Chamber is looking for more chalk artists. If you know someone would like to participate, call 447-7600. Get more info at BeachWalkChalkWalk.com.



**OUR NEXT ISSUE IS OCTOBER** Read this, as well as other issues, online at BeachNewsletters.com.

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## BEACH DINER, continued

In 1998, the City canceled The Diner's lease with almost no notice. They made a decision to build the roundabout and City Manager Mike Roberto wanted to start it immediately. The Chandlers only had 3 weeks to shut down and get out. The neon lights were turned off and the shiny stainless steel doors closed in November. The diner was demolished shortly thereafter.

At the time, Steve and Lisa had been negotiating with the City of Clearwater for over two years to open and run Pier 60 Concessions. After The Beach Diner closed, the Chandlers were awarded the concessions contract.

Today, Steve, Lisa and ten of their former Beach Diner employees are working at Pier 60 or in the concession building south of the pier. "Our working on Clearwater Beach still continues, but we do miss that old restaurant," laments Steve and Lisa, "and the hundreds of people who ate there in the '90s".

Lisa Chandler, co-owner of Pier 60 Concessions, was recently selected Tourism Professional of the Year by the Clearwater Beach Chamber of Commerce. She was presented the award June 4th for her efforts with Sunsets at Pier 60 and the recent "Sugar Sand Festival".



## AS WE REMEMBER IT:

"The Beach Diner was one of my favorite paces. My Sertoma Club met there for a while. Then, we had organizational and regular Beach Chamber meetings there in the early days. I remember the Corvette Club would hold rallies there; what a sight. Steve and Lisa did a great job while they owned it and the wait staff totally had the idea of customer service.

I hated to see it go, but when building a new beach, there was no place for it in the entryway or the proposed roundabout. But the timing worked out for the owners. They moved their personality to Pier 60 Concessions. I even had some of the neon lighting from The Diner to my office on Baymont, framing my front windows for about 10 years until I moved." **John Doran, former City Councilman**

"Beach Diner had the best turkey pot pies and jukebox." **Darlene Kole, Executive Director, Beaches Chamber of Commerce.**

"The Beach Diner was one of our favorite spots - an icon on Clearwater Beach. Steve Chandler ran it in the early 1990s and one of our favorite waitresses was the bubbly Lisa, who was loaded with personality. They worked side by side, fell in love, married and later raised a family of talented children. It was a perfect recipe for success. After a day of fishing, we took our friends there to have our catch cooked and served with all the trimmings. They also had killer hot fudge ice cream sundaes. The Diner also has a special meaning to me because it is where the Beach Chamber started. In January of 1996, John Doran, David Little and Ken Rosenow called a meeting of beach business owners. Nineteen of us showed up and we formed the Clearwater Beach Chamber of Commerce. Lisa was always our waitress." **Sheila Cole, former Executive Director Clearwater Beach Chamber**

"I do not think we will ever see another Clearwater Beach restaurant like The Beach Diner. Steve and Lisa Chandler converted a worn out Howard Johnsons into a classic sixties diner. It featured jukebox booths, chrome and mirrored walls, a long lunch counter and friendly service. The diner was open for breakfast, lunch and dinner and appealed to the entire beach. My favorite dish was the Chicken Pot Pie followed by a real ice cream shake.

The Chandlers had a small dining room in the back for community meetings. In 1998, the Clearwater Beach Chamber held its first meeting there. It was not only a popular hangout for locals, many car clubs parked their classics around it on weekends and Rock-N-Roll music could be heard around the building. The only thing The Diner lacked was Lisa on roller skates." **David Little, Founding Member Clearwater Beach Chamber of Commerce**

"The Beach Diner had great food. The best thing was it was right across the street from our boat. Steve and Lisa have gone on to greater things with their Pier 60 concessions." **Phil Henderson, Sr., The Admiral Dinner Boat and Starlite Cruises**

"My recollections of the Beach Diner go back to when it was Howard Johnsons. On many occasions, my father would open the Palm Pavilion on Sunday mornings, then meet my mother, brothers, and I for breakfast there after we all went to church. When my brothers and I got older, we would leave home early to have breakfast at the Beach Diner before we went to work at The Palm. I will always remember those moments." **Hoyt Hamilton, Co-owner of The Palm Pavilion.**

"I remember sending customers from our party boats over to The Beach Diner to have their catch cooked. Our crews would also relax there at the end of the day. Steve always took good care of the guys working on the boats in the marina." **Captain Stan, Queen Fleet Deep Sea Fishing Boats**

"My wife is just now beginning to forgive me for voting for the roundabout when I was a City Commissioner. That decision eliminated her favorite casual dining place on the beach. But Steve and Lisa were kind enough to entrust me with their collection of classic 45s from the jukebox that kept the diner rocking while you ate." **Bob Clark Former City Commissioner**

"Back in the smoke-filled-room days of the City Commission, about 1960, they signed a 99 year lease with a developer, to put a large motel on that property. The deal was for \$5,000 per year! The Clearwater Beach Business Association took them to court and it went all the way to the Supreme Court where they won. But before the residents and businesses could savor their victory, they made another deal with a Howard Johnsons franchise, for a much shorter lease. When that lease was up, two members of the Beach Business Association proposed a welcome center. But the commissioners did not agree and made the deal for a Beach Diner which included a small area for a welcome center." **Anne Garriss, Resident & Clearwater Historian**

## Restaurant News...



### IT IS THEIR BIRTHDAY, BUT YOU GET THE PRESENT

While Crabby Bill's has been in Indian Rocks Beach 30 years ago this year, they opened the Marina restaurant 13 years ago next month and the BeachWalk location 5 years ago this month. Pictured here are many employees at the BeachWalk store. To celebrate, on August 27th they are offering \$5 Grouper Sandwiches & \$5 Crab Traps all day.

**GOLDEN SPOON AWARD** Rusty's, the restaurant inside the Sheraton Sand Key won another Golden Spoon. This is the award presented by Florida Trend Magazine. There are very few issued in Pinellas County. Rusty's has now won this distinction four years in a row.

**GREAT BEGINNING!** Congratulations to Mike, owner of Pizza Bizzar, in the Shoppes of Sand Key. He had only been open 6 months when his store won *Best Pizza on the Beach* in the recent Clearwater Beach Restaurant Week. Call them at 595-1000 to try their pies.

**BEACH FYRE BBQ** This new casual dining restaurant is now open on the north end of the beach. It is in the location of the recently closed Cali's on Mandalay. It is owned by Steve Stagmer and specializes in BBQ. Find them at 608 Mandalay Avenue or call 408-5200.

**ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION** Lucky 13! Backwaters Cafe on Sand Key is celebrating its 13th anniversary on Wednesday, August 28th with its annual Crab Boil on the back deck. Be sure to try the Anniversary Burger! Plan to party with Larry and your neighbors.

**FRENCH COOKING CLASSES** Café Largo, a French cuisine restaurant located near Belleair Bluffs is offering cooking classes every other Monday. Owner and Chef Dominique Christini invites you into his kitchen to teach you what makes French cooking different. Classes begin at 6:30pm and cost \$37 per person. If you are interested, call 596-6282 or email [Cafe.Largo@Verizon.net](mailto:Cafe.Largo@Verizon.net) for upcoming dates. Visit [CafeLargoRestaurant.com](http://CafeLargoRestaurant.com) for info.

### CESARES ON THE BEACH

Cesare Tini (left) opened his small Italian Café on the south end of the beach in August of 2003. Quickly, the neighborhood fell in love with its authentic cuisine. A few years later, friend Carlo Venditti, joined



Cesare in running the restaurant. Both men live in Clearwater Beach and established Cesares at the Beach as one of the best restaurants in the area. They rate 4.5 stars on Trip Advisor. Visit [www.CesareAtTheBeach.com](http://www.CesareAtTheBeach.com)

**CLOSED** Cali's on Mandalay, Mandalay Avenue and Thai Gardens on Bayway Blvd have both closed.

When you get tired of the tourist routine, join the locals at a real Florida bistro!  
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## DR. LARA SAYS

Q & A with Cesar A. Lara, M.D., Voted Best Weight Loss Practitioner in Tampa Bay



When one looks in the mirror, the images that the eyes perceive and are sent to the brain are metaphorically like drawings in need of coloring. The coloring is done by our psychosocial imprinting, derived by millions of messages that we have been given, and continue to receive, from society and our friends and family.

Q: When I look in the mirror, I am so unhappy with my body that I don't even feel like I can make a change. How can overcome this?

A: It is my wish that as you see yourself in the mirror, you limit your time looking for imperfections. We all can see our love handles, our belly, and the look we don't like in some of our clothes. Instead of using the full length mirror, look into a facial mirror, or even better, the rear-view mirror of your car (when the car is stopped). With a smaller mirror, you won't be distracted by other areas of body. Looking deep into your eyes, acknowledge to your inner spirit how beautiful, intelligent, strong, healthy and sexy you are. It is this awareness that will transform your self image not only for you but those around you too.

In the journey of change to "Be The Best You", it is imperative you acknowledge and become an active participant in your thought development and execution. With positive support, you will be able to focus your energies in learning how to eat nutritiously and empower your body as you shed pounds and learn to strengthen your body by keeping an active lifestyle. As you learn and participate in awakening your unique gifts and appreciating yourself, you will come to be humbled by the creative energy that will transform your dreams into reality.

When you look into the mirror, know you have the power to change what you see. Learn to live the life that you wish for and don't let others take control of your thoughts. Take the leap of faith and see beyond the body by looking into your eyes and seeing your own inner beauty.

## COAST GUARD APPRECIATION

Mayor of Clearwater, George Cretekos, proclaimed August Coast Guard appreciation month during a ceremony at Clearwater City Hall.



"The City of Clearwater, Florida's only Coast Guard City, recognizes and appreciates the dedication of the men and women of the United States Coast Guard." said Cretekos. "Especially during this month of the 223rd anniversary of the Coast Guard, Clearwater and its residents want to extend special thanks to Coast Guard personnel and their families for their service."

Clearwater became a Coast Guard City January 27, 2012.

Capt. Richard Lorenzen Air Station Clearwater commanding officer, Clearwater, Lt. Cmdr. Mia Dutcher, Sector St. Petersburg chief of response, Chief Warrant Officer Steven McDonnell, Station Sand Key commanding officer, Karen Miller, Coast Guard Auxiliary Division 11 commander, Peter Palmieri, commander Division 11 Flotilla 1, and Manual Sosa, Vice Commander Division 11 Flotilla 1, were present for the proclamation.

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## Business Briefs...

### NEW MANAGER

Steve Miller is the new Manager of the Sand Key Marriott. Steve, who has over 30 years experience, began July 1st. He has a bachelors degree in Hotel Administration from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and was with the Hyatt Hotel group from 1984 to 1993. He also served as



manager of the Tulsa Adams Mark Hotel, Villa Florence Hotel in San Francisco, Beverly Heritage Hotel in Silicon Valley, the Hilton Sedona Resort, and most recently managed the Renaissance Ross Bridge Golf Resort. Steve and his wife Becky have 2 children, both in college. They have not yet found a house, but they are enjoying their new beach life. The Marriott's phone number is 593-6105.

### BEAUTY BASH

Mark your calendar for Beauty Bash 2013 at the Hyatt Regency Clearwater Beach Resort and Spa's beautiful Sandava Spa! Sandava Spa and Radiance Medspa will be co-hosting this exciting event to benefit Homeless Emergency Project. Come learn about the very latest beauty products and spa/medspa treatments, watch live demonstrations, and take advantage of event-only specials! Thursday September 26th 6:30 – 9:00pm. RSVP to 727-518-7100.

### LARGO MEDICAL CENTER WINS AWARD

The hospital is one of only two hospitals in Pinellas County to receive the American Heart Association's 2013 Mission: Lifeline Silver Receiving Quality Achievement Award. The award recognizes the hospital's commitment and success in implementing an exceptional standard of care for heart attack patients in our community. They are part of a system that makes sure STEMI patients get the right care they need, as quickly as possible. Learn more about them at [www.LargoMedical.com](http://www.LargoMedical.com).



### CAR'S A/C NOT COLD?

It is hot out there and if you think your air conditioning is not as cold as it was last year, you may have something wrong. Stop by Steve Colin's BP in Island Estates and let him take a look. They are offering residents a car air conditioning recharge and performance test for \$19.95 and a 10% discount to repair any problems they

may find. Call them at 446-1566.

### GOING TO THE DOGS

Doggy Couture in the Shoppes of Sand Key sells things and photographs for your dog. They are located in the breeze way in the Shoppes. Call them at 386-4094.

## More Business Briefs...

### NEW ST. MICHAELS BUILDING NOW OPEN

St Michaels has moved, next door. Dr John Michaelos and his staff moved into their new building, which has been under construction for over a year. The downstairs of the new building will be mostly administrative offices and space for retail sales. With the project came more parking too. The existing building will be remodeled to match the new building and turned into a larger surgery center. They have been in their location since 1961 and employ 20 people. Visit their web site at [www.StMichaelsEye.com](http://www.StMichaelsEye.com).



*Drs. John and Louis Michaelos*

**LESS HOTEL ROOMS** Before the real estate frenzy in 2002, Clearwater Beach had approximately 4,383 vacation rooms. 1,703 were lost when buildings were torn down to build condos. Now, with the addition of a few new hotels, 631 new rooms have been added. Clearwater Beach now has about 3,300 tourist rooms, still a net loss of 1,072 rooms.

**ON THE MOVE** En Grade Catering has moved. They are no longer at 400 Indian Rocks Road, but are still offering catering services out of a special commercial kitchen until they can find a new store front in the Belleair area. You can still call them at 489-9297



**HELPING HANDS** 25 Volunteers from local Merrill Lynch and Bank of America offices joined forces to landscape a house being built through Habitat for Humanity of Pinellas County and sponsored by Bank of American. During the morning, they laid 7 pallets of sod, planted 100 plants, and spread 20 bags of mulch.

**NATURE'S FOOD PATCH TOP GROCER** The Organic Retail and Consumer Alliance recently selected Nature's Food Patch as one of the Top 12 Right-To-Know grocers in the United States. The award honors companies that are transparent about their GMO labeling on store items. They were recognized for being truthful in their labeling and seen as an encouragement to other grocers for transparent labeling, as well. The Clearwater store, located at 1225 Cleveland Street, is dedicated to offering a complete selection of quality organic and natural products.

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## DR. LOUIS MICHAELOS, THE MAN BEHIND ST. MICHAELS

*"When he takes the "Oath of Hippocrates", a doctor pledges to practice medicine so that he will become respected by all humanity. Dr. Michaelos epitomizes that in his practice and in his life. I have known him personally for many years. He's not just a doctor; he is a role model for the entire community."*

Dr. Louis Michaelos, as described by Clearwater Mayor, George Cretekos.

Dr. Louis Michaelos (83), was born in Deland, Florida, the son of Greek immigrants. He always wanted to be doctor and attended Emory University, before receiving a degree in pharmacy from the University of Florida. During the Korean War, he served in the US Army. Afterwards, he attended Medical School at the University of Miami with an internship and residency at Emory & Grady Hospitals in Atlanta.

Louis married Mary Billirakis of Atlanta, also of Greek heritage. "Both our families were from Greece, and Louis and I were friends for a long time before we got married," remembers Mary.



**Dr. Michaelos when he first opened his practice**

Louis and Mary moved to Largo in 1961 and purchased an existing medical practice from a Dr. Hughes Johnson. Dr. Michaelos practiced family medicine for 15 years at 1014 West Bay Drive, next door to today's location.

But in 1976, Dr. Michaelos decided he wanted to become an ophthalmologist, specialize in eye care. That required him to complete a new ophthalmology residency which he did at the University of Tennessee.

In 1980, after Dr. Michaelos completed his Ophthalmology residency he returned to Largo where he was remembered and welcomed back by all his old patients. He opened his West Bay Drive ophthalmology practice, where it remains today, at 1018 West Bay Drive.

Louis attended to his patients, while Mary processed bills and filed insurance claims. "When we started in 1980, we only had three employees," remembers Mary, who worked in the office for many years.

"When we first opened our family practice, West Bay was a two lane road," says Mary. "We have seen the Publix, across the street, get torn down and rebuilt three times. That was once the site of the Pinellas Central Bank. Largo Lanes bowling alley was where Hammerheads Ace Hardware is today. Of course there was no Pinellas Trail; that was a functioning railroad then. Largo Park was the site of the Pinellas County Fair."

Dr. Louis Michaelos has been on the staff at both Morton Plant and Largo Medical Center Hospitals. When he joined Morton Plant, he was the 60th doctor on their physician register. Today, there are over 1,000.

"We remember some of the great landmark restaurants, many of which are not here anymore," says Louis. "We remember the Garden Seat in Clearwater, the Palm Garden on Walsingham, Pueblo Village in Indian Rocks,

the Kapok Tree off McMullen-Booth, The Pelican Restaurant and others. Our favorite had to be the original Louis Pappas Restaurant in Tarpon Springs. We still enjoy Bob Heilman's Beachcomber and the Palm Pavilion in Clearwater Beach."

"We loved going to the old Cabana Club on Sand Key and the Pier in Indian Rocks Beach. We spent many a day fishing and site-seeing on the old pier," says Mary. "We would always take the children there; they still enjoy fishing. It was sad to see it go in Hurricane Elena in 1985."

Dr. Michaelos was very involved with the lives of Largo and Belleair residents. For 23 years, he served as Largo High School's Packer football team physician and could be found on the home bench at every game. He has been active in many local service clubs and the Largo Chamber of Commerce. He received the Largo Citizen of the Year award in 1969. He also has been active in many medical organizations over the years, serving as President of the Pinellas County Medical Society.

His son, Dr. John Michaelos (54) followed in his father's footsteps. He attended the University of Tennessee undergraduate school and went to medical school at the University of Miami. He returned to the University of Tennessee to complete his residency followed by a fellowship at the University of South Florida in cornea and external diseases. He joined his dad in Largo in 1996 and runs the St. Michael's Eye & Laser Institute.

John Michaelos and his wife Evelyn live in Harbor Bluffs. They have five children. Their oldest son Louis, is in his fourth year of medical school with plans to join the family's eye clinic at St Michaels.

Louis and Mary Michaelos now live in the Town of Belleair. They have four children, Dr. John, and three daughters, Kappy who is an RN, Irene a nutritionist, and teacher Michelle. They have 11 grandchildren. Louis is semi-retired, but still works one day a week in the West Bay office.

The Eye & Laser Institute employs approximately 20 local employees and they recently built a beautiful new, larger campus next to their existing building. Many expansion plans are in the works.

St. Michaels Eye & Laser Institute is one of the leading eye care centers in the United States. Find more information about St Michaels Eye and Laser Institute, and the services they offer on their web site at [www.StMichaelsEye.com](http://www.StMichaelsEye.com). Their phone number is 585-2200.

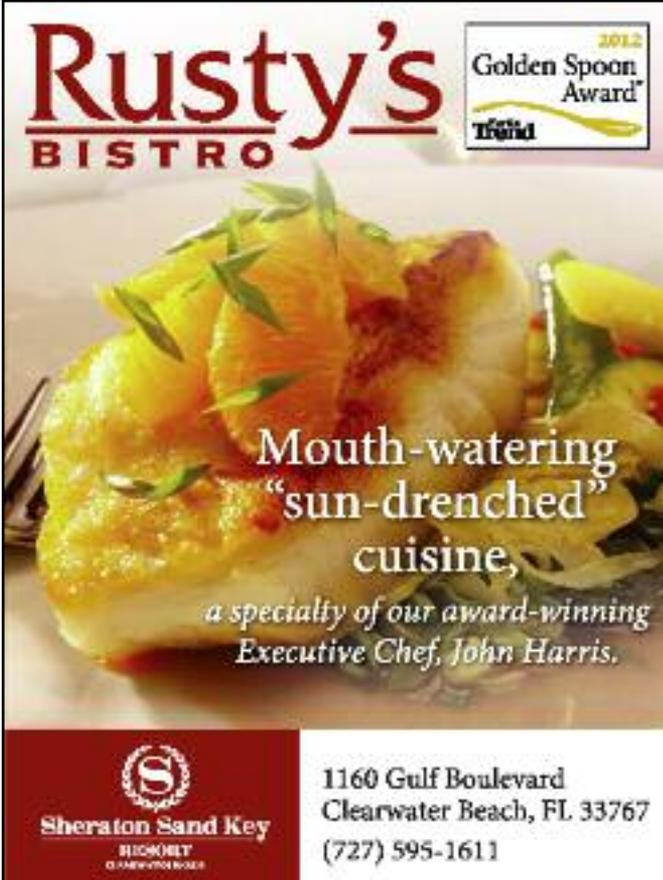


**Dr. Louis & Mary Michaelos**



**The new St. Michaels Building that opened over the Summer**





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## LET'S COOK SOME FRESH CATCH OF THE DAY

By Chef Dawn Bause, Sand Key resident and Owner of Cooking with Dawn Tours Tastings



One of the best things about living in Florida is being able to get my hands on ~ and, cook up fresh fish!

Besides being my favorite protein, it's a super food packed with omega-3 fatty acids ~ great for our heart and brain health. And, it's simple to cook, easy to digest, and so delicious.

Unfortunately, I still hear people say they don't like to cook fish at home. Its stinky or stinks up the house. That is only true if you're cooking stinky fish that isn't fresh. Fresh fish, if it is really fresh, does not smell fishy.

If the fish I am cooking is cut into filets, I will cook them the "Italian way" which is very simply in a sauté pan with extra virgin olive oil over medium heat. I dry the fish with paper towels before putting it into the pan with oil. Let the fish brown on one side and then carefully turn only once. Add some fresh herbs, (rosemary or thyme or oregano) sprinkle with coarse sea salt and fresh cracked pepper. If you like lemon on your fish, don't add it until after you remove it from the pan (unless you're making a lemon, caper sauce with white wine and garlic). Sometimes I'll add some sliced cherry tomatoes and a splash of dry white wine after turning the fish and let it cook just another couple minutes. I find the most common mistake people make when cooking fish is they overcook it.

If I'm cooking thicker fish steaks I like to grill them, and a whole fish is ideal for baking, all dressed with my beloved extra virgin olive oil. By the way, if you happen to be looking for a great imported, unfiltered Italian Extra Virgin Olive Oil, Plateroti's Italian Market on Gulf to Bay in Clearwater has an amazing one at a great value. Or, Costco who has their own olive groves, has a really nice one from Tuscany in a glass bottle that I always have on hand.

The thing to remember about extra virgin olive oil is that it has a shelf life of about 18 months. I always make sure there is a harvest date or expiration date on the bottle or I won't buy it.

I'm off to Italy this month for my semi-annual "food and wine tour". Hope to catch up with you again soon.

Email Dawn at [AskDawnNow@aol.com](mailto:AskDawnNow@aol.com) or visit [www.CookingwithDawn.com](http://www.CookingwithDawn.com)

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## BOAT CLUB NEWS

Members gathered for two island parties recently. One was prior to the fireworks on July 4th on One Tree Island, then earlier this month, close to 40 members on 11 boats gathered at Three Rooker Bar for a day of food, drinks and fun. Pictured here is some of the group, after a great lunch on Jerry and Linda Newton's boat, Blue Waters.

- . Join the fun, at one of their upcoming boat club events:
- August 31: Geckofest in Gulfport
- September 21: End of Summer Island Party
- September 28: Intracoastal Cleanup

The IRB Boat Club, part of the Indian Rocks Beach Homeowners Association, is free to join. You do not need to live in Indian Rocks to be a member. Call Bob Griffin, 727-517-1997 for more information. See a complete list of Boat Club events, pictures and more at [IRBhome.com](http://IRBhome.com).





**MOVING FORWARD THIS FALL!  
Time to call En Garde!!**

With the steamy summer months soon to be behind us, En Garde is looking forward to cooler weather and some even cooler new services.

"While we are continuing with our relocation process, we are also busy planning a new dinner delivery service," says owner Robb Schoonmaker. "Clients are constantly looking for a service that will deliver daily fresh, nutritional meals right to their door. Given the success of our lunch delivery service, we feel with the right program we can accommodate clients for dinner delivery as well. All updates concerning our new location and new services will be posted on our website, so people should check for updates."

Though the new retail space is not yet complete, En Garde is still offering full service catering and weekday lunch deliveries. Clients are encouraged to contact the office for more information.

"We are very lucky that we have such a loyal following," Schoonmaker adds, "and look forward to revealing our new retail space soon."

All inquiries can be made by calling (727) 489-9297 or email, Catering: info@engardecatering.com and Lunch: brownbox@engarderetail.com. Again, look to their website for updates, www.engardecatering.com

**FORT FOR SALE: \$17,500,000**

The historic waterfront estate at 802 Druid Road South, now for sale, was the site of the original Fort Harrison. There is even a plaque on the wall facing the sidewalk designating this fact. Called "Century Oaks", it has undergone extensive renovations since the current owner, race car driver Hugh D. Fuller, purchased it. The estate, the first in Harbor Oaks, was built in 1915 by New York developer Dean Alvord.

The estate includes the main house, a north house, two pools, a tennis court, a basketball court, a carriage house, and a boat house. The main house alone is 23,159 square feet with 10 bedrooms, 15 full baths, 9 half-baths.

The property, on 3.45 acres, is behind a large concrete wall on Druid Road with live oaks dating back 300 years. It has spectacular views to the west of Clearwater Harbor and the Sand Key Bridge. You may recognize it if you are an area boater; its long vertical seawall is very distinctive.

Call Smith and Associates at 282-1788 for information.



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*Permanent Makeup*

*Tattoo Removal with Skin Needling*

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**PRODUCTS:** *Lifeline, Obagi, DNA Health Institute, PureLife 4U, Avene, Glytone, Abecco, Latisse, Isagenix*



**Medical Director/Owner**  
**G. Joseph Fitzgerald, Jr. DO**

Gerald J. Fitzgerald Jr., DO, who also goes by Doc Fitz to his patients and friends, has been practicing Family Practice medicine in Largo/Belleair for almost 20 years and is double board certified. In addition to his Family Practice office, he is also on staff at Largo Medical Center, and is the director of Wright's Nursing Home and Oak Manor Nursing Home. He is the US parent holder for a ground breaking invention that will greatly impact the diagnosis of colon cancer. He spent seven years as the physician of the PGA tour. He is the official local physician for Warner Bros. films including Dolphin Tale, Magic Mike, and Spring Breakers. He volunteers with the Special Olympics and multiple local charity events. Doc Fitz treats all his patients like family and cannot wait to introduce everyone to his new medical facility.

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## Organizational News...

### ISLAND ESTATES CIVIC ASSOCIATION

The Island Estates Civic Association will hold its annual Town Hall Meeting on October 10, 2013 at 7:00 pm at the Island Way Grill Restaurant. The agenda will include a presentation by representatives of the Clearwater Marine Aquarium regarding the November referendum on the proposed downtown aquarium project and an update on the sequel to the Dolphin Tale movie. The IECA's annual Winter Social is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, December 10, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Island Way Grill. More information on these events will be distributed in the next few weeks..

Membership is \$50 per year per family. They meet on the second Monday of each month in the new Clearwater Marine Aquarium Classroom Building, but they are taking a recess for the summer. The next meeting will be September 9th. Call President Mary Lau at 813-335-6770.

### CLEARWATER BEACH ROTARY

The Rotary of Clearwater Beach is looking for businesses to volunteer their windows to be painted with pictures of peace. On September 21, 2013, Clearwater High School Students and Rotary International Exchange students will be coming together for the United Nations International Day of Peace and painting store shop front windows. The event is expected to have newspaper and television coverage. If you would like to participate in this event, and have your window show peace, please call Alexandra, Everist at 727-237-8037.

They meet Thursday's at 12:15 at Shepherd's Beach Resort on Gulfview Blvd. in Clearwater Beach. The first Wednesday of the month, the club sponsors a Sunset Social at the Clearwater Beach Hyatt on the second floor. Rotary is an international organization of business and professional leaders whose main objective is service to the community, the workplace and the world. For information, call 727-237-8037 or visit [clearwaterbeachrotary.org/](http://clearwaterbeachrotary.org/)

### ISLAND ESTATES WOMAN'S CLUB

Their year begins in September 2013 and runs through May 2014. Membership is open to women who live on Island Estates and others who are sponsored by a member. Please Contact Membership Chair Joan Landreth 727-812 -8078 for membership. Luncheon reservations can be made by contacting Helen Frain 727-445-9290. The Club also provides College Scholarships for qualified girls through their Charitable trust. Ongoing fundraisers benefit local charitable organizations including Clothes To Kids, The RCS food bank and the Pinellas County Mammography Voucher Program.

An October 15th luncheon will be held at Island Way Grill. This event is a fundraiser for Breast Cancer Awareness.

### CLEARWATER BEACH ASSOCIATION

The next Board meeting will be September 3rd. The guest speaker will be from the Communications Department of the Clearwater Police Department. October 1st, Frank Dame from the Clearwater Marine Aquarium will talk about the November referendum. November 5th, Will Carey from Tampa Bay Harvest will speak.

They are a Neighborhood Association organized to promote projects of a civic, recreational and entertainment nature. Meetings are held at the Clearwater Beach Recreation Center on Bay Esplanade, the first Tuesday of each month, at 6pm. For more information, call Wendy, 216-3274 or visit [www.ClearwaterBeachAssociation.net](http://www.ClearwaterBeachAssociation.net).

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## SUNSET CINEMA AT PIER 60

Sunset Cinema provides free movies on the beach every Friday and Saturday. All the regular pier activities, such as artisans, crafters, street performers and live music also take place. Beach towels, blankets and low lawn chairs are welcome. Movies begin at dusk. Popcorn and beverages will be available on site.

### AUGUST

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| 23: <i>The Karate Kid</i> | 30: <i>Babe: the Gallant Pig</i>              |
| 24: <i>Skyfall</i>        | 31: <i>Harry Potter: The Sorcerer's Stone</i> |

### SEPTEMBER

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 6: <i>RV</i>                            | 20: <i>Back to the Future</i>                |
| 7: <i>42</i>                            | 21: <i>A League of their Own</i>             |
| 13: <i>The Pirates, Band of Misfits</i> | 27: <i>Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs</i> |
| 14: <i>Men In Black 3</i>               | 28: <i>Rudy</i>                              |

### OCTOBER

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 4: <i>Where The Wild Things Are</i>           | 18: <i>Gremlins</i>                              |
| 5: <i>Dead Poet's Society</i>                 | 19: <i>Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone</i> |
| 11: <i>Hotel Transylvania</i>                 | 25: <i>Beetlejuice</i>                           |
| 12: <i>ET, The Extra Terrestrial Restored</i> | 26: <i>Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2</i>   |

You can see the complete and changing schedule online at [www.SunsetsAtPier60.com](http://www.SunsetsAtPier60.com) or by calling 449-1036. This is partially sponsored by the City of Clearwater's Parks and Recreation Department.

## ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD SEEKS APPLICANTS

Applications are being accepted for the City of Clearwater's Environmental Advisory Board. The objective of the board is to provide citizen insight to the City Council and staff on environmental activities within and affecting the city. Applicants must be Clearwater residents.

The board will identify and assess significant environmental objectives. It will review and provide recommendations to the City Council on environmental programs and projects.

To request an application, contact Official Records and Legislative Services at (727) 562-4090. Applications are due Aug. 30, 2013.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Looking to volunteer? Do you enjoy retail? Clothes To Kids (CTK) is actively seeking adult volunteers at their St. Pete location, 3251 3rd Ave. N, Suite 145. Volunteers are needed every Friday morning and the second & fourth Saturday of each month (both mornings) from 8:45 to 12:30 to help with shopping. For information call 727-327-7100 or visit [www.ClothesToKids.org](http://www.ClothesToKids.org).

Clothes To Kids is a not-for-profit organization which provides clothing to low-income, school-age children in Pinellas County, free of charge. For information, call 441-5050 or visit our website at [www.ClothesToKids.org](http://www.ClothesToKids.org). In 2012, CTK was awarded a 4 star rating by Charity Navigator.

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## IMPROVEMENTS FOR FLORIDA ELECTIONS

By State Senator Jack Latvala

As many of you know, elections in the great state of Florida have provided fodder for political pundits and late-night comedians in the past. As Chairman of the Senate Ethics and Elections Committee, one of my responsibilities during the 2013 Legislative Session was to help improve the system to assure the efficiency and accuracy of our elections in Florida. With the input of dedicated Supervisors of Elections from around the state, we made important changes this year to election laws to guarantee that our elections process is the best it can be.

Supervisors of Elections have consistently advocated that the "one size fits all" approach simple does not work in a state as diverse as Florida. They are right. The Legislature took into consideration the concerns of Supervisors of Elections and provided flexibility in the hours, dates and locations of early voting. Given this new latitude, Supervisors, not Tallahassee, will be able to assess the needs of their local communities. Our own Deborah Clark, Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections, helped to write the new law.

Under the new law, counties will provide a minimum of 8 days and may provide up to a maximum of 14 days of early voting. The bill also expands currently authorized sites to include fairgrounds, civic centers, courthouses, county commission buildings, stadiums, and other public locations. Supervisors will now be able to provide for a minimum of 64 hours up to a maximum of 168 hours of early voting.

The new law also helps to protect the security of and clarify the processing of absentee ballots. If a voter requests that an absentee ballot is to be sent to an address other than the voter's home address that is on file, the request must be done in writing and signed by the voter.

Voters who forget to sign their mail ballot envelopes can file an affidavit with their Supervisor of Elections in order for their ballots to be counted. The affidavit must be filed by 5 p.m. on the day before an election. Voters will be able to track their ballot on-line in a free access system to assure that their absentee ballot is counted. For more information concerning the free access system, voters may contact the Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections office at (727) 464-6788, or visit the website at [www.votepinellas.com](http://www.votepinellas.com).

Late voter registration will now be allowed for military personnel and accompanying family members who have returned from a military deployment or activation. They can register until 5 p.m. on the Friday before an election. Voters who move to another county but haven't yet changed their voter registration may vote a regular ballot provided the new county uses an electronic database as their precinct register.

Thanks to the efforts of committed legislators, staff, and Florida's Supervisors of Elections the changes produced in election laws this session by HB7013 will make our elections process in our rapidly growing state more efficient and more friendly. If you have any questions on this legislation or other issues, please contact my district office at (727) 793-2797.

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## DON JUAN PONCE DE LEON'S DISCOVERY OF FLORIDA 500 YEARS AGO

by Bob Griffin, Publisher

It seems, we have been taught most of lives of the importance of Christopher Columbus, who is credited with the discovery of America. The truth is, from 1490 to 1502 Christopher Columbus made four voyages to the New World, and never once set foot on the mainland of the U.S. He discovered the Bahama Islands, Cuba, Jamaica, other various islands, plus areas in Central and South America, but not North America.

I remember in school, we spent less than one week studying Ponce de Leon who is given credit for discovering our state. If it were not for the, "The Fountain of Youth" attraction in St Augustine, we might not even remember him. Occasionally you see a street or school named for him. Tallahassee's Leon County is named in his honor. Why is there not more?

Juan Ponce traveled with Columbus once, and came back to the New World several times with different explorers. In 1505, he helped settle part of Espanola and after several battles, he was awarded land and made Governor of San Juan Bautista, now known as Puerto Rico.

Juan Ponce, father of four, was both a sailor and a farmer. He was considered to be a good administrator, who was fair, honest and loyal, especially to the kings and queens that financed his voyages.

### DISCOVERING FLORIDA...The First Time

On February 23, 1512, Juan Ponce received a contract from King Ferdinand to explore, settle and govern Bimini, an island thought to be somewhere north of Puerto Rico. 11 years after Columbus discovered the New World, Ponce de Leon set sail with a small squadron of three ships, carrying about 65 companions and soldiers.

On April 3rd, after a month and sea, he reached what he thought was a large island. He named it 'La Florida', the Flowered One. He was thought to be near Daytona Beach and The Palm Coast (but nowhere near St Augustine).

After touching land, he sailed south along our east coast, inadvertently discovering the Gulf Stream. This was perhaps the single most important Spanish discovery since Columbus's first voyage. It was later determined to be the best way to return to Europe. The presence and importance of the Gulf Stream would later make Havana, Cuba, the most prominent city under Spanish control.

Juan Ponce's voyage continued south past Miami Beach, west through the Florida Keys and north to barrier islands near Ft Myers in the Port Charlotte Harbor. On his return trip, they visited the Dry Tortugas, the Keys and the Bahamas before arriving back in Puerto Rico on October 19, 1513. He was gone for over seven months.

In 1514, Juan Ponce returned to Europe and received several honors, titles including Governor and Chief Justice of Bimini and Florida. But his second trip to Florida, to start a colony, would be delayed seven years.

### DISCOVERING FLORIDA...The Second Time

Don Juan Ponce de Leon sailed from San Juan, Puerto Rico, for Florida again on February 20, 1521 with only two ships carrying about 100 people. Their primary purpose was to establish a colony, so the appropriate supplies including tools, seeds and animals were on board. Juan Ponce had to pay for the ships, supplies, wages, and other incidental expenses.

He wrote in a letter to the King, "I am returning to that Island [Florida], if it pleases the will of God, to settle [it],

being able to carry enough people to be able to do it and be served by the agricultural production of the land." He went on to write, "I intend to discover more of the coast of the said Island and to learn if it is connected with the land where Mexico is." He signed the letter "From Your Majesty's slave and servant who kisses His Very Royal feet and hands."



Historians and chroniclers of the time wrote very little about Ponce de Leon's second voyage, mainly because it produced absolutely nothing significant. The second voyage in fact, was a complete failure and ended in tragedy. None of his goals were achieved. There was no gold, no colony, no new maps or charts and no diary or log. The only information about the trip is found in three letters de Leon wrote before his death and by Cortez after one of the ships reached Mexico.

Not much is known about the ships, other than they were small, about 70 feet long and 20 feet wide. They drafted about seven feet so it would have been very crowded with 100 people, animals and the necessary implements to start a colony.

The exact site of his attempted settlement is unknown. He may have returned to Charlotte Harbor near Pine Island to establish his colony. One thing is for sure, he wanted a location on the mainland, not an island that would not be good for farming. He knew about farming.

It is just as likely he explored and considered the area around Sarasota Bay, Tampa Bay, or even as far north as Apalachee Bay. On some maps drawn a century later, Tampa Bay is labeled "The Bay of Juan Ponce". This has caused people to assume that his colony was somewhere on the shores of Tampa Bay.

Around the first of July, 1521, five months into his trip, there was a deadly confrontation with some Florida Indians, who may have been Caloosa Indians. If they were, the fight would likely be south of Tampa Bay. Juan Ponce had already had a terrible experience with the Caloosa during his first voyage believed to have been in Charlotte Harbor near Pine Island.

The Indians overwhelmed the Spanish. Many were killed, but the actual number is unknown. Juan Ponce was shot in the thigh with an arrow. His nephew, Hernan, was killed. Many of the future colonists died during the fight.

The ship carrying the wounded governor and crew returned to Havana, where many died from infections. Juan Ponce's nephew Hernan and others that died during the return trip were buried at sea. His other ship, with Cortés in charge and the few remaining healthy crew, crossed the Gulf of Mexico to explore Mexico in search of gold.

Juan Ponce died of his wound later that month in Cuba. Juan Ponce de Leon was 47 when he died. He was barely mentioned by the chroniclers of his time. He was first buried in Cuba, but in 1559, his remains were removed and taken to the San Juan Puerto Rico Cathedral where he lies today.

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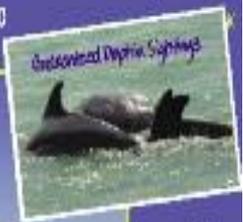
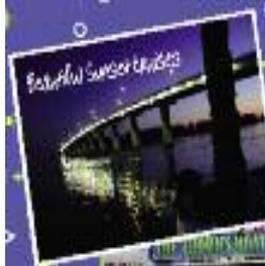


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## More Organizational News

### BELLEAIR BEACH LADIES LUNCHEON CLUB

They meet monthly on the second Tuesday. Membership is open to area residents at \$15 a year. Susan Lordan was elected the President for 2013. The next meeting will be October 8th. To join, please call Barbara Chapman at 581-8929.

### FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

The Friends invite you to attend the City's Visioning meeting at the Clearwater Beach Rec Center on August 28, from 4:30 to 7:30pm. The city is in the process of updating its master plan and would like your input. It is a drop in event and there will be various stations to visit, and people to answer your questions. They want you to express your views.

They are having a Membership Drive to attract people who share their goal of keeping the Rec Center, Library and Pool open and providing services for all the residents of Clearwater Beach. Dues are only \$20 for individuals and \$30 for families. Pick up a membership application at the Rec Center or Library, and become a part of this group

New members are always welcome to attend and share ideas on how to improve things. Call Ron Delp at 412-2566 or Anne Garris at 446-4410 for information.

### BELLEAIR GARDEN CLUB

The group will host their last Summer Pot Luck Get Together, 11:30am on September 4. Members and guests are asked to bring a home-made dish to share. Attire is summer casual. Regular meetings resume October 2nd.

Formed in 1947 they celebrated their 66th anniversary in February. They meet on the first and second Wednesday of each month at the Belleair Garden Club at 903 Ponce de Leon Blvd. in the Town of Belleair from October to May. Membership is \$50 per year. Guests are welcome. Call Barbara Chapman, 581-8929 or E-mail BChapman1234@Gmail.com, to RSVP.

### CLEARWATER GARDEN CLUB

Located at 405 Seminole Street, they meet on the second Friday, October through May at 9:30am.

The first meeting of the season will be October 11th. However, they still have their get together every Saturday at 10am at the Garden Club on Seminole Street. There will be an Inside Cleaning Day at the Garden Club on Friday, September 13th at 10am. If you can, please help. A special program on Hydroponics will be held at Linda Pointer's House on Saturday, September 21st at 9:45am

Dues are \$30 for one or \$35 for two from the same family. They have interesting speakers, hands-on events and field trips. New members are welcome! Reach President Cathy Foley at 443-7032.

### CLEARWATER ALL AMERICAN SERTOMA CLUB

Sertoma club recently presented two of its highest awards. The Sertoma of the Year Award went to member Debbie Huffer for volunteering in all community projects of the club. She is also the club's Secretary and Treasurer. She participated in Christmas bell ringing, processing at the annual health fair, chaired the leadership role at the club's annual social events and much more. The second award was the Service to Mankind Award presented to former Mayor Brian Aungst. His involvement in community affairs is far reaching and well known. For more information, please call Sand Key resident Charles Fazio at 593-8322.

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## More Organizational News



### CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB

On July 20th, Clearwater Yacht Club hosted their 8th annual Dinghy Poker Run. Sponsored by CYC member Brad Wilson of Suncoast Inflatables, over 30 boats were on the water, traveling to different locations where they had to perform a silly task to earn a poker card. After lunch on the water, over 100 wet, happy "Dinghy Warriors" returned to the Club to enjoy a dockside BBQ with live music at the Tiki Hut and relaxed in the swimming pool. If this sounds like your kind of fun, the Club has a special membership promotion currently in effect, as well as a summer membership offering. Now is the time to join! Call or stop by 830 South Bayway Blvd.

### CLEARWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

They received a lease for the vacant South Ward Elementary School site. A committee headed by Dean Robinson is studying the feasibility of taking on the lease to be the home of the museum and will report to the Board of Directors next month. The Plumb House at 1380 South Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue in Clearwater is the current home of the museum but they have received so many historical items they are bursting at the seams and need a larger area to display them properly. The historic Plumb House would still operate as a satellite museum. The 10 times world Champion Clearwater Bombers fast pitch softball team would also have room for their historic mementos as well.

The Clearwater Historical Society will be promoting fundraisers in the near future to help raise money for the move. Memberships are \$5 students, \$10 individuals, \$20 family, \$150 corporate. If anyone has an interest to be involved with CHS, please call President David Allbritton at (727) 481-5102, Bill Wallace at (727) 446-2676 or Mike Sanders at (727) 434-1684.

### SAND KEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION

They are sponsoring a special open forum at the Clearwater Community Sailing Center on October 8th at 7pm to discuss The Clearwater Marine Aquarium proposed expansion in downtown Clearwater Receive information and to have your questions answered by the CMA officials before going to the polls to vote on the November 5th referendum. All Sand Key residents are encouraged to attend.

They meet once a month on the first Wednesday of each month at the Clearwater Community Sailing Center. Their next meetings are: September 4th and October 2nd. You can reach current president Arlene Musselwhite at 644-7524. Their web site is [www.SKCA.org](http://www.SKCA.org).

### ISLAND ESTATES YACHT CLUB

This social club has functions almost every month. Their primary one is planning the annual Lighted Boat Parade, one of the largest and most popular marine events in the Clearwater Area. This year it will be on December 7th

Call Scott Sanders at 461-3949, Laura Lee Bernard at 442-1978 or Sue Speck at 446-0682, for information.

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**STUDENT INTERN PROGRAM  
NEEDS MORE HOST COMPANIES**

by Philippe Beau, PhD.

As part of our regular program of interns from the University of Bordeaux in France, the Clearwater Beach Chamber of Commerce welcomed two students in June, Antoine whose focus is to study the efficiency of our website and propose potential improvements and Camille who is studying consumer behaviors in Clearwater Beach's tourism with a goal of determining what motivates our visitors. Both students are fluent in three: English, Spanish, and French.

A pilot program for us this year welcomed four students in May (Clement, Louis, Olivier, and Rodolphe) from INSEEC, a Paris business school. Their focus has been to draft a Market Study on Florida Tourism. They are comparing major markets (Orlando, Miami, Jacksonville, and Tallahassee) as well as Tampa Bay, and specifically Clearwater Beach, to determine opportunities for our members. They are also writing a personal project paper based on their internships at The Tropics Boat Tours and at MobAdWin. Their host companies and I expect some interesting marketing studies from them as they participated in the day-to-day operations for the last 2 months. They also had the opportunity to experience hosting at Crabby's Bar & Grill and learned how to welcome our visitors. The students are thrilled with their internships.

Our Fall program will start on September 4th with twelve French students from the Pau's business school (affiliated with the University of Bordeaux). We still need more host companies and invite you to contact the Chamber if you wish to welcome a student for three months. They will be lodged at the Magnuson Hotel and will be able to walk to your business daily. The internship is three days a week for ten weeks. The other two days a week, they are in class at the Clearwater Yacht Club. It presents many advantages for the host company because you can ask the students to just shadow an employee to learn, perform day-to-day tasks that can help your business, or ask your student to study a particular aspect of your market to increase sales! On days where you have nothing for your student to do, they have homework and can be sitting at a desk ready for when you need them. They want to learn about marketing and entrepreneurship, so the size of your business is not important. In most cases, they just need to observe how you do business. Call us today, 727.447.7600. If your business is not directly on the beach, we provide transportation.

Finally, we want to thank the Travelodge and Magnuson Hotels for their special program to lodge all of our students. We would not be able to run this program without the help, and participation of the host companies including the Clearwater Yacht Club, the Saint-Petersburg Clearwater Visitor Bureau and the Jolley Trolley. We really appreciate all participating members and our great chamber staff.

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## FLOW TOUR COMES TO CLEARWATER BEACH

Tuesday, August 27th, Surf Style will host a stop on the 2013 Carbon US National Flow Tour. It is the last stop before the finals in New Jersey, August 31st.

The Flow Tour is flowboarding's premier competitive tour featuring some of the world's best riders. The 2013 US FLOW Tour consists of 10 stops across 7 different states, and with a prize purse of over \$27,000 dollars.

During competition, each rider is given 3 runs in their division and their top two scores count for their total score. Scores are based on tricks and run execution, as well as overall impression and difficulty. Each competitor's best 6 results are added together to crown the 2013 season champions in their division. The Surf Style stop, with their single indoor FlowRider, is the perfect venue for competitors to earn their last and all-important points.

With a prize purse of over \$6500 in cash and product including a Best Trick Competition sponsored by Lokey Motor Group, the Surf Style stop will be the biggest and best event to date. Main tour sponsor, Rider Sandals will be outside on beach walk with a "try and buy" booth as well as foosball tables and a "spin to win" wheel. Lokey will be bringing a selection of cars to display and Crocs, Carbon, and Super Duper Surf will also be on site with great products for competitors, spectators and beach goers alike.

The Surf Style stop, located at 311 S Gulfview Blvd, Clearwater Beach, will open to the public starting at 8 am. Attendees can park in the Surf Style 350-space beach parking garage attached to the store.

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## USING SIGN LANGUAGE TO BREAK COMMUNICATION BARRIERS WITH BABIES, TODDLERS, AND CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS!

by Zoe Turner

Sign language is a wonderful tool that can be beneficial to many, not just within the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. Sign language can be used with parents and babies wanting to communicate before they start talking, toddlers to help enhance their communication, and with children with special needs such as Autism and developmental delays who struggle in the area of verbal communication.

Sign language has been proven to aid in the language development of children who otherwise have a hard time communicating their wants and needs. The use of sign language breaks down the communication barriers for children with and without special needs and helps them to express themselves in situations where their verbal skills are insufficient. Signing can be a fun and instrumental way for the entire family to learn something new and enhance communication skills with their little ones at the same time. It has been proven to reduce frustration and build trust with parents and their infants, strengthen the parent/infant bond, jumpstart intellectual development, promote positive emotional development and helps babies learn to talk sooner.

Designed To Sign, LLC is an innovative company in the Pinellas area that offers instructional services to parents, families, caregivers, and educators of children with special needs, helping to introduce sign language into their daily routines. Baby Signs® classes and workshops are also taught to families with infants and toddlers in a

fun-filled delivery in order to help parents and babies communicate before they can actually talk. Classes such as Sign, Say, & Play™, Baby Signs® Parent Workshops, and Early Childhood Educator (ECE) workshops are all taught by Zoe Turner a Certified Baby Signs® Instructor and past Speech and Language Therapist. She has paired her love for American Sign Language and her experience working with children with speech and language disorders to create this new and growing company! For more information on registering for classes, workshops, or private home services contact Zoe through her website [www.Designedtosign.com](http://www.Designedtosign.com), email [info@designedtosign.com](mailto:info@designedtosign.com) or phone (727)378-2465.



*Zoe Stewart-Turner, passionate about helping ALL children communicate effectively, has used her past experience as a Speech Therapist paired with her love for American Sign Language (ASL) to create Designed To Sign, LLC an innovative company in the Tampa Bay area. It is no surprise that her passion has evolved into a lifelong dream.*

*Announcing...*

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CLEARWATER JAZZ HOLIDAY

Presented By

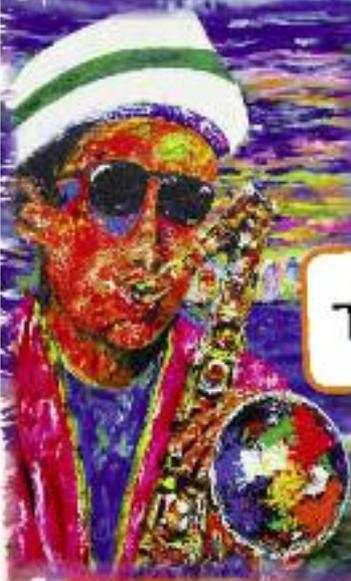


OCTOBER 17-20, 2013

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And More! Artist(s) Subject to Change



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This project was sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture.

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**Indian Rocks Beach**

**October 5th - 11 - 7 pm**

Registration is 11am to 1pm, in IRB's Kolb Park on Bay Palm Blvd.  
 Crabby's Loading Dock Awards party starts a 7pm.

Players should work as teams. Solve the clues at 20 bars, restaurants and businesses on the route and your team receives a point for each correct answer. The team with the most points wins!

**\$5 in advance - \$10 day of event**

T-Shirts Available \$12 each - while supplies last

**Visit IRBhome.com for complete rules, applications and online registration**

Presented by the Indian Rocks Beach Homeowners Association

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## FLORIDA BOTANICAL GARDENS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Chuck Scaffidi, Foundation President & Volunteer Coordinator

Every time I write my "President's Message" for the Foundations Florida Friendly Footprint newsletter, I take some time to reflect on what being part of the Florida Botanical Gardens and the Foundation means to me. For a retired NASA engineer to wind up here is serendipity to the nth degree surrounded by beautiful tropical flowers, native plants and Florida-friendly flora – and lots of folks who love them as much as I do. I almost daily get to try to find ways to grow us into the world-class gardens that we have been working toward for the past 13 years, since the earliest days of the FBG. What that means to me is a deep sense of pride in our accomplishments and our vision, along, of course, with the realization that there is still much to be done and many challenges to be met.

Speaking of vision, let me share one of my own personal passions - enhancing the beauty of the gardens with works of art. If things go as I hope, we will unveil an amazing new outdoor sculpture during Holiday Lights in the Gardens. According to experts on the value of public art, outdoor art can "shape our consciousness, create a collective attitude, inspire, remake behavior, and reduce stress.

That leads me to another of my garden passions. Since we are always looking for ways to attract visitors, maybe a new target demographic could be workers who need to de-stress or retirees or young mothers who want a safe as well as beautiful place to get some fresh air and exercise. We call it "Making the Florida Botanical Gardens a Healthy Habit."

What more perfect place for finding a little peace and quiet during the hustle and bustle of our everyday lives, communing with nature, getting away without going away, enjoying the fresh air, and maybe getting a little bit of exercise? There are also benches throughout the gardens for sitting, soaking in the natural beauty, meditating or chatting with friends. It's just common sense that spending time with Mother Nature is a good thing.

This year has been one of our best yet - from the Holiday Lights in the Gardens to Diggin' the Arts events. With our ambitious goals for the future, we are always in need of more "roll up your sleeves" types so please consider joining the volunteer team. We need your skills, energy and enthusiasm.

So, friends of the FBG - thank you from the bottom of my heart for all you give and do. You inspire me to work even harder to turn our garden vision into a reality! And I'm anxious to meet new friends.

Stop by for a visit sometime soon - preferably early morning while it's still cool – and while you're at it, why not "Make the FBG a Healthy Habit"? I will be happy to give you a personal tour,

### CALLING ALL SINGERS!

The Tampa Bay Children's Chorus is holding auditions for singers in grades 2-12 for the 2013-2014 25th Anniversary season! No experience is necessary and singers of all ability levels are invited to audition. The Tampa Bay Children's Chorus offers exceptional choral education and artistic experiences with performance opportunities around the Tampa Bay area, including Rays and Lightning games! Rehearsals are held in Temple Terrace and St. Petersburg. Visit [www.tbccchorus.org](http://www.tbccchorus.org) or call 813-977-5558 to schedule an audition.

## DRAIN YOUR WAY TO MOSQUITO CONTROL

Heavy rains in June and July have created ideal conditions for a mosquito population boom. Technicians responding to mosquito calls have noted that many homes have items or areas that contain standing water – the ideal breeding condition for mosquitoes – and are significantly contributing to the mosquito problem.

Pinellas County Mosquito Control asks all residents to do their part to reduce the mosquito population. Remember, mosquitoes only need ¼ to ½-inch of standing water for the larvae to survive. Some simple suggestions are to:

- empty water from flowerpots, garbage cans, recycling containers, wheelbarrows, aluminum cans, boat tarps, old tires and buckets - any item that can hold water.
- flush birdbaths and wading pools weekly.
- flush ornamental bromeliads or treat with BTI, a biological larvicide available at home improvement stores.
- clean roof gutters, which can hold water when clogged.
- change the water in outdoor pet dishes regularly.
- keep pools and spas chlorinated and filtered.
- stock ornamental ponds with mosquito-eating fish.
- cover rain barrels with screening.
- check for standing water under houses, near plumbing drains, under air conditioner drip areas, around septic tanks and heat pumps.
- take steps to eliminate standing water, improve drainage and prevent future puddling.

Protect your skin from mosquito bites when outdoors by wearing mosquito repellent (products containing DEET, picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus) or long-sleeve shirts and pants. The threat of virus, although minimal, is present throughout the year and precautions should be taken during outdoor activities.

By taking these simple preventative measures, citizens can help reduce the number of mosquitoes in our county and minimize mosquito-borne diseases.

## CLEARWATER JAZZ HOLIDAY OCTOBER 17-20

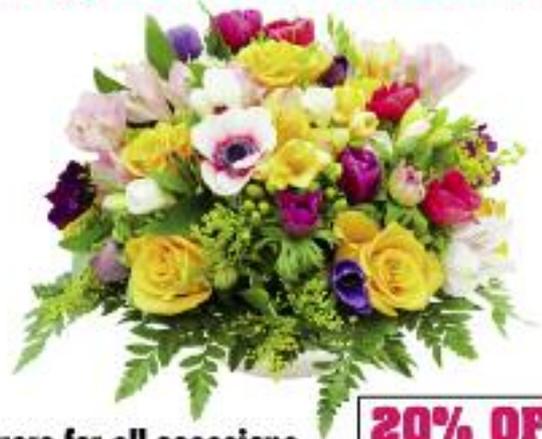
Now in its 34th year, the Clearwater Jazz Holiday will present some of the finest talents including Chicago, Tower of Power, Brandi Carlile, Average White Band and more! The collaboration on headline acts between the Clearwater Jazz Holiday and Ruth Eckerd Hall serves to increase and continue with a diverse music lineup in 2013. The Clearwater Jazz Holiday is sure to appeal to the tens of thousands of visitors attracted to this world-class event, the third weekend in October each year.

Presented in the 20-acre landscaped Coachman Park in downtown Clearwater overlooking beautiful Clearwater Harbor and the majestic Memorial Causeway Bridge, the Jazz Holiday is four days and four nights of some of the best live performances in the world presented to the public. The visitor experience is complemented by the Clearwater area's mild fall weather, miles of world-famous beaches, brilliant sunsets, and dining to suit every taste and budget.

One of the longest-running events in the country, the Clearwater Jazz Holiday has presented in concert multiple luminaries of our generation. The mission of the Clearwater Jazz Holiday Foundation is to be the leading proponent of jazz entertainment and education in Florida through the annual presentation of a world-class, live music festival. The Clearwater Jazz Holiday Foundation has been center-stage for numerous scholarship and educational activities to benefit the music students of our community.

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# Broker's Open

DATE OF OPEN HOUSE

13000 110th St. N. Largo, FL



Situated in the desired equestrian neighborhood is an outstanding home of 5,074 sq. ft. with 5/4 bedrooms and 4.5 baths. This area is also noted for its excellent school system. Built in 1983 by a commercial builder, the home is poured solid concrete including the second floor and walls of a Frank Lloyd Wright design on 3/4 acre.

The downstairs living area boasts of dual stairways, informal living room, billiard/game room, bed & bath plus a magnificent high end kitchen & eating area. The flooring is all new solid oak and large ceramic tile with vaulted wood beam ceilings. Other features in the home include dumb waiter, 2 fireplaces, 1,000 sq. ft. master bedroom, new security & smoke detectors, two central vacs, sauna and oversized jet tub, new A/C, new roof (both buildings), custom window treatments, California closets & deep well.



Adjoining the 20x40 pool in a screened area of 4,500+ brick pavers is a 1,000

sq. ft., two story air condition full court racketball/half court basketball gym now being used as an exercise room. This could easily be converted to a mother-in-law suite, maid's quarters or more garage space.

This home is located in a non-evacuation zone. Listed above are only a few of the many extraordinary features of this fine property. It is a must see! **\$1,100,000**

**DIRECTIONS:** Indian Rocks Rd, W on 102nd Ave., R on 131st St., R on 110th Ave. to address on right.



Please join me... *Judy Curtis*

727-460-3408 Cell | 727-581-5680 Home